

W6OTX

W6ARA

PAARA NEWSLETTER
VOLUME 76, NUMBER 11, November

K6OTA

K6YQT

PAARAgraphs



The Official Newsletter of the

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

The Friendliest Club Around

Celebrating 88 years as an *active* amateur radio club—*Since 1937*<http://www.paara.org/>

Building TARA's Voice in Tehachapi

Micah Martin, KN6VUT

What started as a few ideas to help grow the Tehachapi Amateur Radio Association (TARA) quickly turned into a phone call: "You're our new Public Information Officer." Since then, I've leaned into my photojournalism background and community pride to make TARA not just visible—but unforgettable. In this presentation, I'll share how showing up in person, radio in hand and TARA logo patch proudly worn, has transformed our club's visibility. This isn't just a story about radios—it's about resonance. About how a club can become a community partner, one event, one conversation, one patch-covered hat at a time.

**This meeting will be a
Hybrid Meeting
Zoom and In Person**

Time: Nov 7, 2025 07:00 PM Pacific Time
Please check <https://www.paara.org> for
Zoom Details

Upcoming Events

Nov 7 Dec 5 Jan 9	PAARA General Meeting, 7:00 PM to ~9:30PM Zoom and In Person Meeting.
Nov 19 Dec 17 Jan 21	Board Meeting, 7:00 PM. Everyone welcome! Zoom Meeting, eMail President for details.



President's Corner

Happy Halloween! I was a skeleton this year, but it occurred to me (a little too late) that it might be fun to put together a ham radio costume! Did anyone dress up as an HT, or a spark gap transmitter, or a tesla coil, or a vacuum tube? I guess without thinking too much about it, we all dressed up as a stealth antenna! If you have any fun ideas for ham radio-based costumes, it would be fun to discuss them over pizza after the November

*(President — Continued on page 3)*

Question
of the
MONTH

Why is CW preferred over SSB in weak signal conditions?

PAARA at Pacificon 2025

Connie W6EFI

We had a great time at Pacificon this year! Pacificon is the ARRL Pacific Division annual October “hamvention” (ham radio convention) put on in San Ramon by the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club.

PAARA has been setting up and operating the Special Event Station (SES) W1AW/6 for over 10 years under the leadership of Mikko (AB6RF) and Christopher (AI6KG) with key direction and equipment contributions from Darryl (KI6LDM), Ric (N67AJS), Ben (KN6UBF), Rob (KC6TYD), Doug (KG6LWE), Mark (AD1M), Margaret (K6WEK), Sorin (KN6YUH), Frank (AF0XX), and Karen provided additional helping hands and guidance with the antenna tower and tents.



Hoisting the Beam

This year we had the club's 4-element beam KLM-KT34 (aka “the tribander”) on a tower for 20-15-10 meter operations, thanks to Doug (KG6LWE) who hauled the tower trailer all the way up from San Martin for the event (and back again at the end). We also had dipoles up for 30m (wire) and 17m



Raising the Tower

(buddipole) operations plus a 40m vertical (yes, you read that right, a 40m vertical). It's always a kick to see the antenna launcher (which looks like a nerf cannon) in action to get the wire antennas up in various trees.



Puzzling out the Tent



Setting up the Station

The purpose of the station is to celebrate the event and to demonstrate the many possibilities of amateur radio operation. The casual friendly and shall we say, party-like atmosphere at this station encourages fellowship while making contacts on the air making new friends and connecting with old friends in person. People get a

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(Pacificon — Continued from page 2)

chance to operate with radios, antennas, and modes that are new to them with help from PAARA members.

New this year was a 30m station dedicated to CW. A couple of successes were having coaches right there at the station to help people new to morse code understand what they were hearing and specifically what to send, along with a clear “script” written out. We expect to do this again next time (and we hope to have straight keys available as well as paddles).

In the same spirit, we had FT8 running at the 10m station to demonstrate a popular HF activity that only requires a Technician license, as well as to show how much fun FT8 can be at any license level.

By many accounts this year we had the smoothest setup and teardown ever. And this despite the fact that the hotel informed us at the last minute that we would not be able to set up the tents on Thursday as we normally do. However the antennas all got set up on Thursday, and the tents went up quickly on Friday morning followed by the radio gear. Operation commenced at noon. Despite a few sprinkles on Thursday evening (“oh no!!”) the weather held and was very fine business for the whole weekend.

Of course PAARA members and friends participated in other fun events and entertaining side quests during the con. Rob (KC6TYD) and Mark (AF6IM) jumped out of a perfectly good airplane over Byron airport for Parachute Mobile Mission 49 with a VHF radio and racked up plenty of QSOs under canopy while Kieth (K1OKS) performed mission control while operating on Mount Diablo.

Justin (AI6YM) had a vendor booth where he was displaying and taking orders for an SDR, picofox, and fox sniffer of his own design and construction. Isaac Heller (KO6GTM) not only operated at the 30m CW station but also headed over to the Transmitter Hunt tent nearby to find the transmitters hidden around the venue. Mike (N6WAI) stopped by and helped Connie (W6EFI) with her new “credit card accident” (Elecraft KH1 purchased there at the show) and then they ran around contacting each other and the CW station across the lawn when the 30m band was otherwise quiet.

On Saturday evening, some club members attended the Banquet, but others of us played hooky this year and went to a restaurant around the corner for some high-end middle-eastern/Turkish food and unexpected entertainment by dancers among the tables.



Unexpected Dinner
Entertainment

Finally, after a full weekend of continuous operation plus assorted pastries, pizza (thanks Michelle!), general ham shenanigans and evening libations, the Special Event Station went off the air at noon on Sunday. Teardown and pack-up of everything took only about an hour and a half. As the con wound down we all headed back home tired but energized with ideas for Pacificon 2026.

For the complete album of pictures (thank you Sorin KN6YUH!), please visit: <https://paara.org/events/pacificon-2025.html>.

Do you have an anecdote to tell about Pacificon? Did we miss mentioning anyone here? If so, drop us a note at w6efi@proton.me and we will include it in the next PAARAgaphs!

TU es 73,
Connie W6EFI

(President — Continued from page 1)

meeting. Maybe next year we can plan to have the November meeting be a costume party, if people are so inclined!

Speaking of the November meeting, officer and board nominations are due by the end of the meeting on November 7th. If you're considering ways to be involved, but not quite ready to run for an elected position, feel free to talk to me or one of the other board members about ways that you can contribute. We have some appointed positions (also shown on the officers page at paara.org), but your interest doesn't have to fit with one of the existing positions. If you have a great idea for the club that you'd like

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(President — Continued from page 3)

to discuss, let us know. We'd love for members to be involved in any way that allows them to participate and help the club.

The PAARA elections will take place at the December meeting. You must be present in person to vote. We'll also have another iteration of our Dream-to-Reality raffle and a speaker from Elecraft in December. If you have a seasonal treat that you'd like to share, bring it to the meeting! I may even find a way to have some mulled cider in addition to the coffee and tea that we normally have. Let's make December's meeting a real festive affair!

Remember that voting is underway for the 2025 ARRL Pacific Division Election. Online voting ends at noon (ET), on Friday, November 21, 2025. If you were a full member in the Division as of September 10th, you should have received an email and a postcard about how to vote. If you haven't already sent a letter supporting the ARRL grassroots effort to pass the Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act, you can do so at <https://send-a-letter.org/hoa>. There is also a Spanish language version at <https://send-a-letter.org/espanol>, and a version for GMRS users at <https://send-a-letter.org/gmrs>. If you've already sent a letter, please encourage friends and family members to do so as well.

Lastly, thanks to everyone who helped at or attended Pacificon - we had a great turnout this year! A minor shortage of tables kept our station area a bit more open than usual and seemed to contribute to a more casual drop-in and hang-out feel to the area. We'll do it again next year, and we already have a few ideas of ways to make the station area better and more fun. If you were there and have any thoughts, I'd love to hear from you.

I hope to see you at the next meeting on November 7th, either IRL or on Zoom! If you're there in person, please join us after the meeting for pizza at Mountain Mike's across the parking lot for fun discussion of Halloween costumes, plans for the December meeting, and any and all fun radio topics. We'd love for you to join us!

73, Bob KN6YGN

Get on the air to keep the airwaves alive!

Oct, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

In attendance were President Bob Ridenour KN6YGN, Vice President Rob Fenn KC6TYD, Secretary Ric Hulett N6AJS, Treasurer Margaret Cooper K6WEK, directors Darryl Presley KI6LDM, Sorin Constantinescu KN6YUH, Doug Teter KG6LWE, and Walt Gyger K6WGY.

A quorum was present.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.

Officer Reports

- **President's Report (Bob):**
 - The yearly Zoom account fees of \$159.90 have been paid on 10/2.
- **Secretary's Report (Ric):**
 - PAARA members: Club memberships expire on December 31. It is time to renew. You can see me at a club meeting, send a check to PAARA, Box 911, Menlo Park CA 94026, or visit our website, click on the 'membership' tab: <https://paara.org/membership/pay.html>.
 - We have received about a dozen renewals so far.

Starting in November, we will send some reminders to members who have not renewed. Check your PAARAgaphs for the expiration date of your membership.

 - I'm working with Sorin on a new web form for member signups.
 - I will start the process to renew K6YQT, our fourth club callsign.
- **Treasurer's Report (Margaret):**
 - The club's raffle permit application will be ready to file by November 1.
 - Our CDs at Wells Fargo mature this month. We will open new CD accounts to earn a bit more than 3.5%..
 - The board agreed that we can offer reimbursements of club expenses through Zelle. Checks will still be available at the member's preference.
 - Work is ongoing to migrate the club books to GNUcash. The accounting subcommittee will review this.

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(Minutes — Continued from page 4)

- VP / Program Chair Report (Rob):
 - The meeting room is reserved for January 2, 2026: Rob will check with Cubberley and move that date to January 9.
 - The restroom availability at our meetings isn't solved yet. I am continuing to work with Cubberley on this.
 - Our guest speaker for November is Michael Micah K6VUT. Topic is TBD.

Standing Items

- We are always in need of member articles for PAARAGraphs: This is your chance to be a famous, published author! Send your article to our editor, Bob (KN6YGN@paara.org).
 - This month we should have some photos and stories from Pacificon.
 - Do we have a promotional spot for the radio loaner program to include? Doug will write this.
- Education Committee [Darryl]
 - November question of the month: Why is CW preferred over SSB in weak signal conditions?
 - Connie W6EFI has suggested we may want to send a monthly meeting reminder by e-mail.
- PAARA in the Park:
 - Darryl is working on a date for this event: There is some uncertainty around the installation of solar panels at the Cupertino site.
 - It was suggested that we have another kit project for the Spring: A code-practice oscillator.
- IT Subcommittee Updates [Sorin]
 - Sorin has prototyped a Google form for new member signup. The board was in favor, and offered a few recommendations. This is likely to be launched in the next couple of weeks. We need to resolve the paypal links.
 - The April PAARAGraphs has been uploaded to the website.

- PAARAGraphs Advertising [Walt]
 - Walt e-mailed Jameco. Their Marketing is interested in placing an ad..
 - Micro Center and Central Computer: Bob will follow up in person at the stores.
- Status of Radio loaner program? [Doug]
 - Doug will verify the function of our FT-897, and will write a blurb for the newsletter.
 - A generous member has purchased upgrade kits for the KT34 and the 40 meter Monobander.

We will need some volunteers for antenna parties to rework the antennas.
- Sorin proposed that we form a committee to explore 501(c)(3) status for PAARA.

Old Business

- Club Computers:
 - New computers at Pacificon: All of the computers worked well, including FT8 operation.

All of the computers agreed on the number of contacts. (973).
 - We will decide how to dispose of the old (Win 7) laptops. Possibly for sale to members.
- Club Election Update [Clark]:
 - The seven current board members have agreed to run for re-election. (K6WGY is elected to a two-year term).
 - Club members should consider running for a board position: It's a great way to give back to your club.

■ New Business

- None

The meeting was adjourned at 9:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ric Hulett N6AJS
PAARA Secretary



October Raffle Winners (left to right):
 Sorin (KN6YUH), Darryl (KI6LDM), Vicky (N7HBJ), Margaret (K6WEK), Doug (KG6LWE)

PAARA



5th 2025 Field Day T-shirt



or



APP Watt/Power Meters

4th TIDRADIO TD-H8



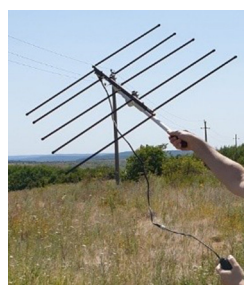
3rd Klein Tools 65300 KNECT 32-Piece Pass Through



2nd Bioenno 12v, 12 Ah LiFePo4 battery



1st Elk Antennas 2M/440L5 Dual-Band Antenna



Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

PO Box 911 Menlo Park, CA 94026

Officers

President	Bob Ridenour, KN6YGN	650-575-4528
	kn6ygn@paara.org	
Vice President	Rob Fenn, KC6TYD	650-888-9060
	kc6tyd@paara.org	
Secretary	Ric Hulett, N6AJS	408-332-4593
	n6ajs@paara.org	
Treasurer	Margaret Cooper, K6WEK	
	k6wek@paara.org	

Directors

Director ('24-'25)	Sorin Constantinescu, KN6YUH,	
	kn6yuh@paara.org	
Director ('25-'26)	Walt Gyger, K6WGY	408-921-5901
	k6wgy@paara.org	
Director ('25)	Doug Teter, KG6LWE	650-743-7892
	kg6lwe@paara.org	
Director ('25)	Darryl Presley, KI6LDM	650 255-2454
	ki6ldm@paara.org	

Appointed Positions

Membership	Ric Hulett, N6AJS	408-332-4593
	n6ajs@paara.org	
Database	Ric Hulett, N6AJS	408-332-4593
	n6ajs@paara.org	
Station Trustee	K6OTA SORIN CONSTANTINESCU,	
	KN6YUH	
Property Manager	Doug Teter, KG6LWE	
Badge Coordinator	Doug Teter, KG6LWE	650-743-7892
	kg6lwe@paara.org	
Raffle Coordinator	Rob Fenn, KC6TYD,	
	kc6tyd@paara.org	
Field Day Coordinator	Doug Teter, KG6LWE	650-743-7892
ASVARO Rep	Clark Martin, KK6ISP	
	kk6isp@sonic.net	
Webmasters	webmaster@paara.org	
Technical Coordinator	Christopher, AI6KG	408-348-0304
	ch@murgatroid.com	
QSL Manager	Ric Hulett, N6AJS	408-332-4593
Speaker Coordinator	Rob Fenn, KC6TYD	650-888-9060

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	k6wgy@paara.org	
Technical Tips	Ric Hulett, N6AJS	

VE Exams

De Anza Park, Sunnyvale, 2nd Saturday 10:30 am each month except November and December. See website for details and exceptions: <http://amateur-radio.org>

Electronics Flea Market (EFM)

Sponsorship: Association of Silicon Valley Amateur Radio Organizations (ASVARO). The Electronics Flea Market is held at West Valley College, 14000 Fruitvale Ave, Saratoga.

Website: <http://www.electronicfleamarket.com/>

PAARA — Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association

Meets 1st Friday 7:00pm each month at Room H-6, Cubberley Community Center; Net 145.230 - PL 100Hz Mondays at 8:30. See website at <http://www.paara.org>. For more information. contact: Joel Wilhite KD6W, kd6w@arri.net, 650-325-8239

FARS — Foothills Amateur Radio Society

Meets 4th Friday each month at 7:00pm at Covington School, Los Altos.

Website: <http://www.fars.k6ya.org>

NCDXC — Northern California DX Club

Meets 3rd Thursday 7:00pm each month, Repeater for member info 147.360. Contact president@ncdxc.org. Website: <http://ncdxc.org>. YouTube content: "The Northern California DX Club Official Channel". Cohost of the International DX Convention.

The 50MHz & Up Group of Northern California

This organization specializes in vhf + wak signal and microwave activities. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month. Time is usually 5pm for in person meetings, and 7pm for Zoom only meetings. In person meetings are held Sports Basement, 1177 Kern Ave, Sunnyvale. Always check the website, <http://50MhzandUp.org>, for correct information. Zoom information is also there.

San Mateo Radio Club W6UQ.ORG

Meets, 3rd Friday, January through November. Tuesdays & Thursdays, [Directed] Net, 7pm, N6ZX 145.370Hz, -600KHz, PL107.2Hz

Contact: SanMateoRadioClub@gmail.com, Website: <http://W6UQ.org/calendar>

SPECS

Southern Peninsula Emergency Communication System users Group

Meets each Monday 7:30pm and 8:00pm.

See: <https://specsnet.org/monday-night-net> for more info.

Contact: <https://www.specsnet.org/contact> or board@specsnet.org

SCARES

South County Amateur Radio Emergency Service

Meets 3rd Thursday 7:30pm each month, Belmont EOC, Belmont City Hall, One Twin Pines Lane, Belmont CA 94002. Net is on 146.445 [PL 114.8] & 444.50 (PL-100) 7:30 Monday evenings. Contact: President Gary D. Aden, K6GDA 650-743-1265 (D), 650-595-5590 (N)

Web: <http://k6mpn.org> E-mail: pres@k6mpn.org

SCCARA

Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Operates W6UU & W6UU/R, repeater 146.985-pl
Nets: 2m, 7:30pm Mon; 70cm, 10M (28.385) 8PM Thur.

Meets 2nd Mon each month @ 7:30 PM.

ARRL/VEC license testing contact 408-507-4698

SVECS — Silicon Valley Emergency Communications

Operates AA6BT repeater (146.115 MHz+)

Website: <http://www.svecs.net> or contact: Lou Stierer WA6QYS 408 241 7999

WVARA — West Valley Amateur Radio Association

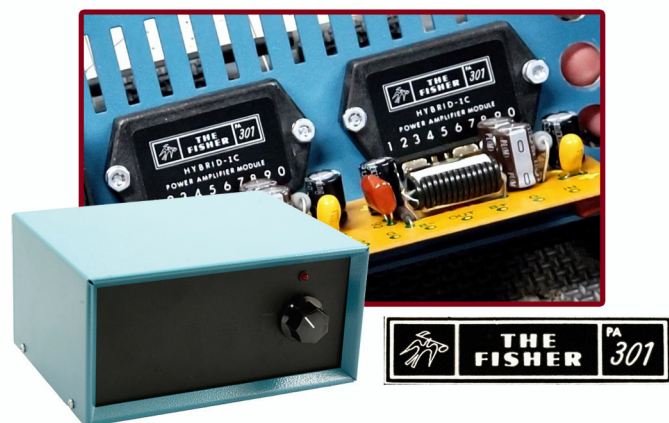
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147.39 (+600) 151.4 ctcss 223.96 (+1.6) 156.7 ctcss 1286.20 (-12m) 100.0 ctcss

Meetings are 2nd Wednesday of every month except July, August and December.

Website: <http://wvara.org>, Contact: info@wvara.org

(Please send changes to PAARAgaphs editor)



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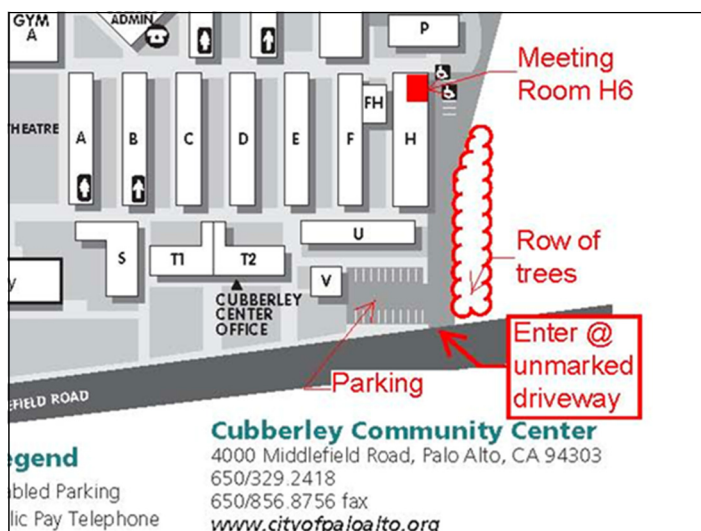
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PAARA Weekly Radio Net

Info and Swap Session
every Monday evening at 8:30pm
on the N6NFI 145.230 MHz repeater

Week Control Operator

1 st	Doug - KG6LWE
2 nd	Doug - KG6LWE
3 rd	Ric - N6AJS
4 th	Rob - KC6TYD
5 th	Rob - KC6TYD

If you're interested in trying out at Net Control, Contact Doug, KG6LWE. It's good practice, and lots o' fun! Give it a try.

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Email: KARLDRESDEN@juno.com

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association P.O. Box 911, Menlo Park California 94026-0911

Club meetings are on the first Friday of each month,
7:00pm at the Room H-6, Cubberley Community Center.

Radio NET & Swap Session every Monday evening, at
8:30pm, on the 145.230 –600 MHz repeater, PL 100Hz.

Membership in PAARA is \$25.00 per calendar year,
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 badges will be mailed.

The cost for a badge is \$30.00.

PAARAgaphs Ad Rates

PAARAgaphs accepts paid advertisements from non-members. (short personal ads remain free for members in good standing). **All ad rates listed are per issue.**

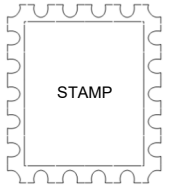
- Not-for-profit ads by association members for ham-related items and wants. No cost for business card-size ads (additional space at \$2.50 per business card size per issue).
- For Profit organizations and/or individuals: \$5-business card size, \$14.00-quarter page, \$25-half page, \$50 full page or back cover per issue.

These fees may be reduced or waived in exchange for a valuable consideration that is given to the Association or its general membership. Such consideration must be in addition to any existing arrangements with the association. The PAARAgaphs editors reserve the right to reject any ad deemed to be not in the best interest of the Association.

All fees payable in advance by the year with "scanner-ready" copy or text-only ads. **Give payment and copy to Walt Gyger, K6WGY.**

PAARAgaphs — November 2025

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PAARAgaphs Newsletter
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FT-891 | HF-50 MHz All Mode Mobile Transceiver

- Stable 100 Watt Output • 32 dB RF S/P • Large Dot Matrix LCD Display with Quick Spectrum Scope • USB Port Allows Connection to a PC with a Simple Cable • CAT Control, PTT/RTTY Control



FT-3185RASP | Heavy-Duty 85W 2M FM Transceiver

- Massive HeatSink Ensures Reliable 85W RF Power • Super-DX Function Increases Receiver Sensitivity & Weak Signal Reception • 221 Memory Channels • Large 5-Chance Alpha-Numeric Display



FTM-150RASP | 2M/430MHz FM True Dual Band Xciv

- Dual Receivers Showing V-U, U-U, V-U, U-V Operator • 55W VHF & 50W UHF • Heavy Duty Real Sink w/Universal RF Connection Conductor • Front & Rear Body Speaker for 6W High Quality Audio



FTM-510DRASP | CFM/FM 144/430MHz Dual Band Xciv

- New Super-DX A3P Inducto Digital Signal Processor Unit • True Dual-Band Receiver (V-U/U-U, U-U/U-U) • CFM/FM Digital D-D Dual Receiver • 2.4" High-Res Full-Color Touch-Pane Display • Wireless Operation Capability with Optional Bluetooth® Header



FT-60R | VHF/UHF Rugged Dual Band

- Over 1000 Memory Channels • Wide Bank Receiver Coverage • High Power Output 5 Watts • High LCD Display • NOAA Severe Weather Alert with Alert Scan



FT-70DR CFM/FM 144/430MHz Xciv

- System Fusion Compatible • Large Front Speaker delivers 700 mW of Loud Audio Output • Automatic Mode Select: detects CATM or FM Audio and Switches Accordingly • Up to 1,105 Channel Memory Capacity • External DC Jack for DC Supply and Battery Charging



FT-5DR CFM/FM 144/430 MHz Dual Band

- High-Res Full-Color Touch Screen TFT LCD Display • Easy Hands-Free Operation w/Built-in Bluetooth® Unit • Built-in High Precision GPS Antenna • 1200/800bps AFSK Data Communications • Supports Simultaneous CFM Digital & Micro SD Card Slot



FT-65R | 144/430 MHz Transceiver

- Compact Commercial Grade Rugged Design • Large Front Speaker Delivers 1W of Powerful Clear Audio • 5 Watts of Portable RF Power With-in a compact Body • 3.5-Hour Rapid Charge Included • Large White LED Flashlight, Alarm and Quick Home Channel Access



VX-6R | VHF/UHF Dual Band Hand-Held

- Big-Radio Features in a Compact Package • Wide-Band Receiver Coverage for Catching All the Action • 900-Channel 24-Bank Memory System • Outdoor-Ready Features including Waterproof Rating, Smart Search, Automatic 51-Channel Scanning, Loading System



• RETAIL LOCATIONS - Store hours 10:00AM - 5:30PM - Closed Sunday
• PHONE - Toll-free phone hours 8:30AM - 5:30PM
• ONLINE - WWW.HAMRADIO.COM
• FAX - All store locations
• MAIL - All store locations



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